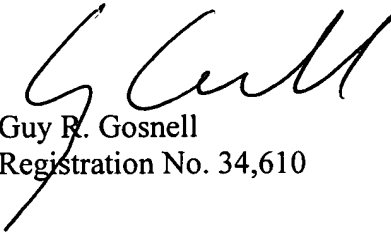


REMARKS

Several of the claims have been amended to be in greater conformance with U.S. practice, such as by eliminating multiple dependent claims. As such, entry of this Preliminary Amendment is solicited prior to calculation of the filing fee. Should the Office have any questions regarding the claim amendments or any other matter, the Office is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

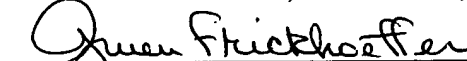


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